


REMARKS

The above amendments are made to more clearly define the invention under United States practice. Please enter this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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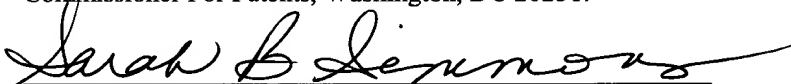
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Date of Deposit May 18, 2001

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Sarah B. Simmons

CLT01/4479461v1

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

1[)]. [Use of] A composition which regulates the inflammatory response of enterocytes,
the composition containing as an active agent a lactic acid bacteria strain capable of decreasing
the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines
and bacterial LPS[, for producing a composition which regulates the inflammatory response of
enterocytes].

2[)]. [Use] A composition according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said
strain is also capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated
with pro-inflammatory cytokines.

3[)]. [Use] A composition according to [either of Claims 1 or 2 characterized in that]
Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is an *L. casei* strain CNCM I-1518.

4[)]. [Use] A composition according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that]
Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is the *L. casei* strain.

5[)]. [Use] A composition according to [any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that]
Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a food supplement.

6[)]. [Use] A composition according to [any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that]
Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a fermented dairy product.

7[)]. Process for screening novel lactic acid bacterial strains which have properties
which modulate non-specific immunity, [characterized in that it comprises the selection of]
which comprises selecting lactic acid bacteria strains capable of inhibiting the production of NO
by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacteria LPS.

8[)]. Process according to Claim 7, [characterized in that it also comprises a step for]
which also comprises a step of selecting strains capable of increasing the production of NO by

cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines [and, optionally, a step for selecting strains which exert no effect on the production of NO by non-activated enterocytes].

9[)]. Process according to [either of Claims 7 or 8, characterized in that] Claim 7, wherein said strains are screened using cultures of lactic acid bacteria chosen from the group consisting of lactobacilli, lactococci, streptococci and bifidobacteria.

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